

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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Ronald J. Tenpas, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on March 15, 2004, **ROBERT E. JULIUS**, age 52, of Beecher City, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois, for Count 1, of being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and, in Count 2, with manufacturing in excess of one hundred (100) marihuana plants. **JULIUS** was sentenced to 66 months' imprisonment on each count, to run concurrently; and 3 years' supervised release on Count 1 and 5 years' supervised release on Count 2, also to run concurrently. In addition, **JULIUS** was ordered to pay a \$350 fine and a \$200 special assessment. The violation took place on July 14, 2002, in Fayette County, Illinois.

On July 14, 2002, Fayette County Sheriff's Department Deputies received a report of the discovery of some marihuana plants on the property that was then rented to **JULIUS**. The Deputies discovered a total of 228 plants from land surrounding **JULIUS**' residence. The Deputies obtained a search warrant and searched **JULIUS**' residence, as well as outbuildings, campers, and automobiles located at the residence. Inside a camper located at the residence, the Deputies recovered a total of nine (9) firearms, along with personal property belonging to **JULIUS**.

The investigation was conducted by the Fayette County Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and the Drug Enforcement Administration, in cooperation with the Fayette County States Attorney's Office, as part of those agencies' participation in Project Safe Neighborhoods, a nation-wide initiative intended to combat violent crime. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.